TRANSCRIPT— THOMAS & LORETTA MILLER

Interviewees: Thomas “Tom” Joseph Miller & Loretta Young Miller

Interviewers: Tealey Ellis & Judith Robertson

Interview Date: May 16, 2019

Location: 477 Old Fort Rd, home of Tom and Loretta Miller

Length: 1 digital recording; 52:37

Transcriber: Brandon Widner

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Abstract: Tom and Loretta Miller discuss their lives growing up in the Fairview/Asheville area, and how they’ve seen the community grow and change through their years in the community.

TE: I'm Tealey Ellis and I'm a volunteer with the Fairview Library Oral History Project. Today, May 16, 2019. I'm interviewing Tommy Joe Miller and his wife at his home in Fairview. Thank you, Mr. Miller for this interview.

JR: This is Judith Robertson recording the oral history of Tom Miller at his home at 477 Old Fort Road in Fairview on May the 16th, 2019 at 11:00 AM for the Fairview Oral History Project for the North Carolina Room at Pack Library in the Buncombe County Library System. The conditions of use form for sound and video recording has been signed by the interviewee.

TE: Thank you again, both of you for allowing us in your home for this interview. Let's start with where you were born and I notice here that it says Biltmore, North Carolina. So

was that where you were born but you actually lived here? Okay, so if you would start there.

TM: Yeah. That was the hospital I was born in, in Biltmore.

TE: Okay.

TM: And we've lived in Fairview most of my life, except when I was in the army, and a few years in town before we built a house here.

TE: What were the years you were in the army?

TM: '57 through '60.

TE: Okay.

TM: Moved back here in '60 and we lived over in town.

TE: Okay.

TM: For...

TE: What were your...

TM: ... a few years.

TE: Tell us your parents' names and where they were born.

TM: Okay. My mother was Doris Miller. She was born in Old Fort, North Carolina, I think. Of course, dad was born here on the farm in the old house over here.

TE: Okay. Tell us about that farm and that house.

TM: The house and the farm, there's 1,000 acres of it. And from what I understand, they give an old house in Asheville and a thousand dollars for the thousand acres and this old house. The old house when it was bought in 1870... yeah, 1876, it was a colonial style house and we don't know how old that house is. It was there on the farm when they bought it. And then my great-granddad, he added onto the house to the front and to the back to make it the house that it is today. And then my daughter... How long ago? 10 years ago.

LM: About 13 years, no.

TM: 13?

LM: Yeah 13.

TM: About 13 years ago, she took one section off the house and rebuilt it because it was just not in shape to remodel. She was going to do it when she remodeled the house, but they had to take one section of the house off. The rest of it is original to 1893 and back to 1876.

TE: Wow. On your paternal side, your grandparents and where they lived.

TM: Okay. That would be Carl Miller and Lulu Sayles and they lived right behind the house here in this house over here. He built that sometime around 1914.

JR: Is that on the other side of the creek?

TM: On the other side of the creek. That rock house over there.

TE: Okay.

TM: Granddad built it.

TE: Okay. And just for kind of a connection question, how far back on your paternal side does your family go in Fairview?

TM: In Fairview, 1876 is when they bought it out here. Now they go a lot farther back than that out in Leicester. And then farther back in that book you've got here.

TE: But 1876 for Fairview.

TM: That's when they bought it in Fairview.

TE: Okay, all right. What was life like for your dad that you can recall? Because he was a farmer, is that correct?

TM: No, Dad was not. Okay. My granddad was.

TE: Was a farmer. Okay. Do you remember anything about the farming as a young boy? Young man?

TM: Oh yeah.

TE: What he did, what your grandfather did.

TM: Granddad was farmer here, which so was great-granddad when he bought the farm here. But he also was a lumber person. He had sawmill granddad did, always farmed with horses here, never was a tractor before I bought a tractor on the place here.

TE: What kind of crops did your grand...

TM: Mainly hay and corn and stuff. Now great-granddaddy, no granddaddy, he had a mill here on the creek. It was pretty well rotted down by the time I've come along as a young man. But the old mill wheels and stuff was still back here, and I guess they've rotted down, gone into the ground, but he also had a mill. Now how much they used that mill and when they quit using it, I don't know. That was before my time.

TE: And I believe you were talking about how long you've lived in this house?

LM: Since September of 1966.

TE: Okay.

TM: We built it in '66 here.

TE: Since that time in '66 to today, what kind of changes have you all seen?

TM: Oh, we've seen a lot of changes from a time... Well, not as much from then as it was from when I was a boy to '66. Now we saw a lot of changes.

TE: Describe those, if you could please, take your time.

TM: For one thing, there was no electricity out here. Electricity I think came either in '49 or '50, it came up the roads. Now there was electricity down 74 down the main road, but there was no electricity up these roads out here. Of course, the little house that we lived in down here had a outhouse. We had a spring, kept milk in the spring, carried water to the house from the spring. Those things have changed.

TE: Oh yeah.

TM: We don't want to go back there, but things are much simpler out here. I guess we were poor, but people just didn't realize it back then. Because most people were in the same situation with the type of houses. It was a few houses that was pretty nice down along the 74. But up the roads, they were mostly just the older houses.

TE: When did you all start seeing changes occurring around you out here in terms of houses... We're talking about earlier, before we started taping, the Wrights Cove area. And around... When do you remember some of that starting?

TM: Wrights Cove? Fairview. Is it Forest or?

LM: Maybe Forest?

TM: Fairview Forest.

LM: That's what it's called now. It used to be called something else.

TM: They bought that when I was in the Army probably in '59.

TE: Who bought it?

TM: Some developer out of Florida bought the 400 acres from Granddad and them and they put the road in there, which was... And there was some houses up there started. I understand there's 200 houses on that mountain. I don't use that number for sure. But they've just built along since '60 to today. And they're still selling property up there. And people are still building up there.

TE: Go ahead.

JR: There's an old, old log cabin and some outbuildings up on Wrights Cove Road before you get to Fairview Forest. Was that part of your father's property?

TM: That was not, that was Nate Trantham's.

JR: Okay. Trantham Creek.

TM: Trantham Creek. Or was that Nate Wright? That was Nate Wright. That built that in there. It was a two-room cabin is what that was. And he had several kids. I don't remember the number. Five or six kids that was raised in that cabin there.

TE: Wow.

TM: And the barn that's out past there, it's a log barn. They say it has more historical value than the log cabin does. The way that barn was built and stuff.

JR: It's lovely.

TE: It's lovely.

JR: There's also a tobacco barn, I believe, or something else?

TM: No, that was never...

JR: A hay barn.

TM: Just cattle.

JR: I see.

TM: Or animal barn. But there was an article one time in something that described the barn out there being more historical than the cabin was.

JR: But it wasn't part of your grandfather's property.

TM: No. Now the Trantham... And the reason this is Trantham Creek, the part that you live on, on the left.

JR: Yes.

TM: The Tranthams owned that. And there was a house up there and there was an old well up there. We used to keep it covered with brush so people wouldn't fall in it. But granddad... Great-granddad bought that property sometime. And I have no idea what year he bought that ridge up through there. But it came from the Tranthams. They had a house there on the left. The well, whatever. But I can't... There was never a house in there since I remember. The old well was covered up with brush so people couldn't fall. And then I can't find, I went up there a couple times, but I don't know where it was. I knew when I was a boy where it was.

TE: How do you think the new construction that you said is still going on, and... Up in that area, and around you as well. How has that changed things for you?

TM: Well, there's just a lot of people out here. A lot of traffic on Old Fort Road now. When I was a boy, all you'd see is a few cars go out in the morning. They were going to the plants around here like Beacon and what's one in Oakley? The plant down there...

LM: Oh, Sayles.

TM: Yeah, the bleachery down there. They were going to work in the plants.

JR: CP Clare.

TM: Oh yeah. Well, CP Clare came...

JR: Later.

TM: '58 or '59 I believe.

LM: You were grown.

TM: Yeah. CP Clare started out in the old gymnasium behind the school. There used to be a wooden gymnasium, an agriculture building behind the school. And when CP Clare first moved in here, it wasn't CP Clare. It's another name that I don't remember. They started out in that old gymnasium up there and then they built the plant across the road over there.

TE: In addition to a lot more traffic changing the environment out here, I'm assuming that back before all that happened and all the new construction took place that you probably felt very safe and secure living out here.

TM: Yeah. And still do.

TE: I was going to ask you if you still do.

TM: Well, there's a lot of people live on the road and behind, this is all part of the farm, but there's developments all the way across there. I don't know the people that live on... You really don't know your neighbors out here. This house up here was in the orchard. I mean it's all... All the property is from a thousand acres to what I've bought. I've got about... I had about 35 acres. We got about 30 acres to the left here out of that thousand acres. Because when great-granddad moved out here, he had two brothers and they split up part of this thousand acres. Uncle Will lived up... I don't know what its name is, the first house on the right up there. Uncle Will had that... About 40 acres in there and had an old shack in there. And now there's a nice house, and I can't remember his name, I knew him for a long time. Anyhow, where the field first starts there, Uncle Will had that. And then Uncle Mark had this above us up here. But granddad had the majority of the property... Or great-granddad.

JR: Okay. Well, I think I got off the track a little bit. Were you going to ask him about what he did as a child?

TE: Yes.

JR: Yeah, I figured that's where you were going.

TM: What I did as a child?

JR: Yeah. What was it like?

TM: Besides going to school?

TE: Well, tell us about school and then we'll take it on. How did you... You went into Fairview.

TM: Fairview, yeah.

TE: And how did you get there?

TM: Well, they had an old bus.

TE: Okay.

TM: Buses were different back then than they are today. Those buses back then, the seats run along the edge of the windows. And they had a little one down the center for the little kids to sit on.

TE: Interesting.

TM: And the bigger kids sit on along the...

LM: Benches really rather than individual seats.

TM: And of course the old school's gone now. They tore that down. When they built this new one down here, It had a log cabin was where you eat, they cooked and it was a little log cabin out the back of the school. And then they, I don't know what year they redone the school down there.

TE: What year did you graduate?

TM: '56. We graduated from Reynolds. We were the first graduating class at Reynolds.

TE: Okay.

TM: So, I went 11 years down here and then one year to Reynolds.

TE: During your 11 years at Fairview, during your, what might be called middle school or high school, certainly high school age, were you involved in any sports? What kinds of things did y'all do?

TM: Well, I played football on the team. Back then, Fairview didn't have enough young men to play football. So, Oakley and Fairview played football together as one team. And then they had their individual basketball and baseball teams. But when I was in high school, we played with Oakley.

TE: That's cool.

TM: Yeah.

TE: Did... Go ahead.

JR: Were you allowed to just kind of run free as a child or did you have chores? Were you structured or how did your childhood go?

TM: Always had animals, cows and pigs. I had... Of course we always had chores, but kids were free back then. I hunted and I fished and done what boys do, you know, back then?

TE: Any idea about old you were when you started hunting?

TM: Well, my granddad gave me my rifle, my first rifle when I was seven years old. Now I wasn't allowed to hunt with other boys till I was probably 13 or 14. I don't remember exactly when I started hunting, but I could hunt with myself from seven years old on. And of course we fished the creeks here.

TE: And what kind of hunting did you do? What were you...

TM: Oh, rabbit and squirrel and quail.

JR: Your granddad taught you how?

TM: Pretty well, Dad never was much of a hunter, but my granddad, he was a hunter.

TE: Do you still have that rifle?

TM: Oh yeah. Yeah. I've got that rifle. I give that really to my grandson. But yeah, I still got my rifle. He'd give all the grandboys rifles.

TE: Okay.

TM: Whenever they become six or seven years old, he bought them all a rifle.

TE: Pretty interesting, isn't it? The changes in time and...

TM: Well, back then, if I wanted to go hunting in afternoon, I'd carry the rifle down to school and put it in the principal's office.

TE: Wow. Sure. I mean, that was life.

TM: And to pick up the rifle after school and squirrel hunt on the way home or whatever.

TE: That's awesome. That's pretty amazing. What was it like for you and when you went that last year of high school in Reynolds, making that switch, what was that like?

TM: Well, it wasn't all that much... Of course, I knew quite a few of the Oakley kids because I played football with the boys. And of course we met in '55.

TE: At school?

TM: No, we met at a ball game uptown.

TE: Okay.

LM: Basketball tournament in the city auditorium.

TM: They used to have the tournaments for all the teams at the end of basketball season. And we met at one of those and 61 some years later, we're still hanging out together.

TE: Here we are at your kitchen table.

TM: Yeah.

TE: I like it. I like it a lot. So, am I hearing that there were no problems with being accepted at Reynolds High School and perhaps that was due to knowing some of the boys already?

TM: It didn't make any difference. Everybody was coming from three different schools. Oakley, Haw Creek and Fairview all combined. And that’s just the way it was.

TE: Did you play sport that senior year?

TM: Yeah, I played football.

TE: You played football. Okay. All right. What do you think, if you can remember from childhood and teen years and as a young man, some of the best parts of living in Fairview?

TM: I guess I never thought about it a whole lot. We didn't have other kids around to play with. It is just part of the farm. We lived on the farm. Life was good. You went to church, you went to school, you had good friends in school. And life was pretty good now. It was pretty simple.

TE: Where were the nearest children to you that you could play with? Cousins or just weren't near?

TM: They weren't any except Anita and them. Later, I guess, in high school I had an uncle out here and he had three children and I did... They were all younger than I was, so I didn't really play with them because...

LM: Where did they live?

TM: Right there at Ballard Creek. There used to be an old house right in there on the left. And then Billy built one up on the hill.

LM: I didn't know that.

TE: Who were some of the say more interesting people that lived in Fairview or around you out here that you knew? Were there any individuals? I remember growing up with hearing they were storytellers or just characters. That's how someone would be described as a character. Do you remember anyone like that?

TM: What was the lady's name that used to come by here? She was a Wright. Oh, she'd stop in to see you every now and then. Anyhow, she was quite a story... I can't think of her name.

LM: I'm thinking of your uncle Billy.

TM: Well now Uncle Bill...

LM: Could have been called a character if you want tell her about him.

TM: Well, Bill was quite the character. He had his eyes put out in Second World War, but he had three kids and married a lady from Madison County and they moved back here

on the farm. Bill was a person that could... Eyes didn't make a lot of difference to him. He could go anywhere on this farm and he could tell you exactly where he was at. Anytime you asked him where... You couldn't get him confused or lost on a farm. Boys, we'd try that. But that didn't happen. He knew where he was and he used to sell stuff over town. He was quite a guy. He was over the... What was it the Boy Scouts? He let them build that place down here where we sold it. Was it... Yeah, I think he was a Boy Scout leader.

JR: What was his last name?

TM: Miller.

JR: Bill Miller.

TM: Yeah, Bill Miller. Everybody knew Bill. He didn't drive, but when he gets ready to go to town, he'd just step out on the road and somebody would stop and pick him up. That used to be the way it was out here anyhow.

JR: Absolutely.

TM: If you was going to town, you'd get a ride to town. Or when I played football out at Oakley, I'd just go down on the road and I'd get a ride back to Fairview.

JR: Well, I just have to ask, if you don't mind. How'd you court your wife? How'd you court this beautiful lady here?

TE: That brought a smile.

LM: Well, you had a car. I know that.

TM: It wasn't mine, it was Dad's.

JR: Dad let you use the car?

TM: Well yeah, we had an old ‘40 Buick I think when we met. Yeah. Yeah. A red ‘40 Buick and done pretty good, I guess.

LM: I wasn't into fancy cars or anything.

TM: Well, we boys didn't have fancy cars back then, you know.

TE: Did either of you, did you all ever break up at any time or you met and it was a done deal?

LM: That was it.

TM: Evidently it was the done deal. She trapped me.

TE: Smart woman. Smart woman.

LM: I got a good deal.

TM: Yeah, we got out of high school and she went into nurses training and I went to Tennessee to school down there. I got back out of there after a year. I joined the Army for three years and we got married after, sometime after I joined the Army.

TE: Did y'all have a church wedding?

TM: No. No. Got married at a preacher's house.

LM: No big wedding. Didn't want one.

TE: Well, at preacher's house was kind of a common thing in rural areas from... At least I know from my family. So that was kind of how it was done.

TM: I drove in from Washington, DC. That's where I was stationed at that time. We got married that night.

TE: Now did she go back? Did you go back with him or you stayed?

LM: No, I had to finish nurses training. I could get married after I'd been in school a year and I knew he had to go to Germany, so we needed to get married before that.

TE: Right.

LM: So, I'd get some of his money, to save to get over there.

TE: Sure. And did you go?

LM: Yeah, after I finished nursing school in '59, I went as soon as I could. After I finished after I took the State Board, I went immediately.

JR: Did you ever get to work as a nurse?

LM: Well, I worked a couple of years in a hospital and when I got back, and then in the doctor's office for a few years. So, I didn't have much of a career when I had children.

JR: You started, your family.

LM: Didn't work much after that.

JR: Exactly.

TE: I hear... I just love hearing love stories. Sounds like a great one.

JR: It sounds like you were very sensible.

TE: Very.

LM: I think we were, yes.

TM: Things were different back then. You know, you got out of high school, you look for a job, you got married and get on down the road back then. But today things are so much different. People wait till they're way up in their twenties or thirties before they ever get married. We didn't do that. We was 19.

TE: Nothing wrong with that. Do you recall any different ethnic or racial backgrounds of people living in Fairview in your days?

TM: We didn't have any racial or Blacks in Fairview. There was one family lived up Old Fort Road. They were mixed. I'm not sure whether mom or daddy or whatever. Anyhow, they were mixed and back then school board pretty well run things and Granddad was on it and they asked what he was going to do about that because Blacks were not... They was still segregated and everything back, he said, "Don't think about it, just send them on to school." And that's what they did.

TE: Good for Granddad.

TM: They just come right on to school and nobody...

TE: And they were accepted.

TM: Yeah. I can't remember ever any problems out of that.

TE: That's good to hear. That is good to hear.

TM: Yeah, that was the only Black family that was in Fairview. There was no other that I know of.

TE: How did y'all, back in the day, get news about what was going on in Fairview or Asheville or anywhere?

TM: Radio and the newspaper.

TE: And the newspaper was the Asheville.

TM: Asheville Citizen.

LM: Well, they had the Asheville Citizen that came in the morning. Asheville Times came in the evening and they finally combined, I don't know what year, but it's been together a long, long time.

TM: There's enough to put out two newspapers that were thick back then. There's no television. As long as either one of us were at home. I know of one television in Fairview when I graduated.

TE: Oh wow.

TM: That was Ray Lytle's family down on Emmas Grove they had a television.

TE: When did you get telephones out here?

TM: It was after I left home.

TE: Okay.

TM: There was no telephones up the road at that time. When they first got them, they were eight party lines out here.

TE: Oh, I remember those days.

LM: And you had to use somebody's to call me.

TM: Oh yeah. I had to go all the way to the, either at school at the schoolhouse, or there was a lady around in Miller Road down here. I could go down there and for a dime I could make a telephone call.

TE: Interesting.

TM: But there was no telephones up these roads.

TE: As a young couple, and maybe in particular when you began your family, in what ways were you, if you were, involved in the community, in church and so forth? Community?

TM: Well, we always... As soon as I came back from Germany, we went to church over town at Reed Memorial Baptist. It was right in front of Oakley School.

LM: That's where I grew up. At Oakley and went to school and the church there always. So, he joined up with the... And that's where we went to church.

TE: Okay. And do you still go over there today?

LM: Yes. It was something else.

JR: Yeah, recently sold, didn't it?

TM: Well, it didn't sell. We merged with Fellowship Asheville.

JR: Oh, okay. I see. I knew it had changed. Yeah.

TM: It got sort of like so many churches are today with older people in it. We lost most of the young people out of the church. And we was down to about 60 or 70 people.

JR: Not enough people to operate.

TM: Not for... That facility is a huge facility, and it was not being utilized. And we merged with Fellowship Asheville who had about 300 people meeting at the Y.

TE: Okay. So, it worked out everybody.

TM: Yeah, it really worked out good. The Lord was in the middle of that to make it work out real easy.

TE: Let's go back to your courting days for just a minute. What kind of things did you all do? You had access to Dad's car? I don't know if you got it as often as you wanted, but...

TM: Pretty much.

TE: Okay. Well good Dad.

TM: Went to the drive-in movies a lot.

JR: The old Starlight.

TM: Old Starlight.

LM: That's right. And Dreamland. And then we went to...

TM: What?

JR: Did you go to any of those places up on Tunnel Road?

LM: Yes. That's why... On the right.

TM: Oh, Babe Malloy's.

TE: What was that?

JR: Chipped ham.

LM: Chipped ham. Exactly. That's what we've got.

TM: She's from around here.

TE: Yes. And I'm not. So, tell me what these were for the record here.

TM: Well, the drive-ins was Dreamland and Starlight. There's another one on across town we never went to.

LM: The eating place was there was Babe Malloy's, there was Winks on the other side of the Tunnel Road. And then there was Bucks, which was a... It was a restaurant.

TM: But kids didn't go there.

LM: No. We went to Babe's.

TE: Like hamburgers and...

TM: Yeah.

JR: Wasn't there an A and W kind of place up there real close to the tunnel? No. You don't remember that? Maybe that was later.

LM: I don't know. I don't know.

TM: I don't know. But they had chipped beef and hamburgers, it was a drive in.

TE: Okay. So, I was going to ask you.

TM: Yeah, we just parked outside and Winks was the same way on the other side. Before that, was a Hot Shot down in Biltmore.

JR: Biltmore. Yeah. Everybody went there. Yeah.

TE: And what was that? What did it serve?

TM: It was more of a sit-down restaurant.

TE: Okay.

TM: Yeah. I guess it's the oldest restaurant in Asheville when they closed. And that's been several years ago now.

TE: Which place? Which drive-in was at what I think is where Lowe's on Swannanoa and Tunnel Road?

JR: Oh, that's Dreamland.

TM: That was the Dreamland Drive In.

TE: That was Dreamland. Okay. And someone told me there had been one there.

TM: Yeah, that was the drive-in movies.

TE: Okay. What was the cost then? Do you remember?

TM: 50 cents a car, I think.

TE: A car. As many people as you could put in it?

JR: And what's the funniest, it wasn't in Asheville. I mean it was like out from Asheville, wasn't it?

TM: Yeah. I don't believe it was in the city limits at that time.

JR: That was out there. Yeah. You had to go past some farmland practically to get there.

TE: As a young teen girl and guy, where did you go for shopping if you wanted to try and find the latest clothes. Where was that?

TM: Sears. It's on Coxe Avenue. They just got through building something in there beside it in the parking lot. It's where City of Asheville Social Services is now on Coxe Avenue. That was the Sears building.

TE: Okay.

TM: And there's a big parking lot right beside it. But they built something in there now. But I don't... Hotel probably, well it might be a hotel.

LM: Well, I went to... Uptown, I rode the bus.

TE: Uptown girl.

LM: Oakley. I rode the bus uptown to go to the movies when I was a child. Or...

JR: The Imperial was it?

LM: Imperial and the Plaza. Either one of those. Didn't go to the State or the Paramount.

JR: Did you shop at...

LM: Bon Marché with Mother and Penny’s. I don't remember buying much, but that's... Except shoes, maybe.

JR: Kress's and Woolworths were both downtown.

LM: Oh yeah. We went to Kress's, Woolworths, and... What was the other one on the same side?

TM: The Army store was right there with Kress's.

LM: Oh yeah. I didn't...

JR: Finkelstein's was down there.

LM: I didn't go to the Army store or Finkelstein's. But I went to the other five and 10 cents store. What was the name of that? Names escape me sometimes.

JR: Yeah. Hadn't thought about that in a while.

LM: Well, I can't think of it.

TE: So, in Fairview itself then, you've talked about places you went in Asheville area for some entertainment and hanging out. What was in Fairview that you might've done?

TM: There was nothing in Fairview. There was one store... Then what is that? They sell outdated food and stuff right there at the...

TE: Dickies?

LM: Yeah. Oh yeah.

TM: That was Fairview Supply. And there was a pretty good store right there. And then there was Merrell's that's still open down there. I don't know what name of it is today.

TE: Is that Dell's Variety? Is that just near the fire station?

TM: Yeah. It used to be Merrell's store.

JR: But you didn't hang out there too much did you?

TM: No. It was...

JR: Just kind of get what you need and leave.

TM: Yeah.

TE: So, there was no place really to go and get a little burger or a drink or something or a Coke?

TM: First restaurant that I know of was Fairview Restaurant, which is...

LM: Angelo's.

TM: Angelo's now. It used to be Fairview Restaurant. It changed to Angelo. As far as I know, that was the first restaurant that was in Fairview.

TE: And is it the same actual building or is Angelo's a new building?

TM: No, that's part of the new building.

TE: Okay.

TM: Fairview Restaurant was in an old, just regular wooden building.

TE: Gotcha.

TM: And some aviator moved in here and built that building where Angelo's is. And he was going to turn it into a upper class type restaurant and it just didn't go. Yeah.

TE: I wonder why.

TM: Yeah. It just didn't fit the community. And then I guess Angelo's is only one's been in there since he built that restaurant. I think Angelo bought it from him.

LM: Well, Fairview restaurant. Was that the same owners as Angelo's?

TM: No.

LM: That was different.

TM: Yeah. I don't remember who owned it. Its Fairview Restaurant. Yeah.

TE: Well, it seems like just in driving around in Fairview different times of the day and different days of the week that Angelo's might fit the community.

TM: Yeah. It's just a country restaurant, inside very nice.

LM: Smells good.

TM: And it's got the deer hanging on the wall and all that stuff.

LM: It's a lodge kind of thing.

TM: I think it does pretty well here.

TE: Looks busy anyway.

TM: I think the son runs it now instead of Angelo. But he was a big hunter and that's the reason all those deers and elk heads are in there.

TE: Okay. And that's... Is that a Greek restaurant?

TM: Yes.

TE: Okay.

TM: I guess you'd call it Greek. They're Greek, but really...

LM: They might have some Greek stuff. They have a variety of food.

TM: Like spanakopita and that kind of stuff on it. But main thing is just a country type restaurant. Got good catfish.

TE: You like fish, I know. What do you know about the quarries that seem to be, have been, are still prevalent in this area?

TM: As far as I know, there's no quarries that are still open.

TE: Okay.

TM: There used to be a soapstone quarry behind the school there somewhere.

JR: Really?

TM: Yeah. Over here in the old house, all the fireplaces have soapstone.

JR: Really?

TE: Oh wow.

TM: In them. This old house over here's got five fireplaces in it.

TE: Oh, my goodness.

TM: And all of them except the one in the old colonial style part of the house. Those other four, they got soapstone in them.

TE: Wow, that's amazing. We've heard different comments about Mine Hole Gap and what was mined or what was there.

TM: I don't know. I have never known. They've always called it Mine Hole Gap there. And there was some kind of, evidently somebody tried to mine something in there, but I don't know what that was.

TE: Okay. We've heard gold and from A to Z almost. So just curious.

TM: I don't believe that, but I think whatever it was didn't work out.

TE: Do either of you have any memories, stories that you might have been told about modes of transportation? Maybe your parents or your grandparents? What kind of transportation they had and how they got from places to place?

TM: Well Granddad had an old two-ton log truck and never owned a car, as far as I know, that he used in the lumber business. Aunt Lillian who taught school, lived here as

one of the children. She always had a car as far as I can remember. She had, I know, two '39 Chevrolets and Daddy bought one of them. That blue one. Just cars back as far... Now there's some pictures over at the house of her and one of the Ford A model, I think. But always cars or horses before that. Now grandmother over here, her old side saddle used to be in the house over there when they were married back in about turn of the century. Yeah, I guess they rode horse because they had her...

TE: That saddle.

TM: And he worked horses. He never had a tractor or stuff when he logged and farmed, it was all horses.

TE: So, was there a bus service that you could catch in Fairview?

TM: There was for a while, if you had plenty of time.

TE: Had to wait a lot.

TM: I can't remember, what was the name of that? He run a bus out here. I know on Saturdays. I can't remember for sure during the week or not. But you didn't want to catch it because it went down Emmas Grove and into Fletcher and back into Asheville to get you to town.

JR: And then it was time to get on the bus and come home.

TM: Yeah.

TE: I thought it might have just been there on 74. And you had to get to 74 to catch a bus.

TM: No.

TE: So, it had routes. Okay.

TM: He run a... And I don't where else he run that. I know it took all day to get to town. And of course I didn't go to town besides on Saturday. And that was go to the cowboy movies.

TE: What was your favorite cowboy movie?

TM: Gosh, I don't know. I watched them all. Hop Along and Gene Autry and all those that..

TE: Roy Rogers.

TM: Roy Rogers and Lash LaRue.

JR: I'll ask a question.

TE: Sure, go ahead.

JR: I may have missed this in the conversation, but when you got out of the service and you came back here, did you work other than on the farm?

TM: Oh yeah. I didn't, I never made a living here on a farm. I mean I've got cattle and stuff here, but I worked for Carolina Tractor.

JR: And where was that?

TM: Well, it was in Biltmore there at the end of Fairview Road for about 30 years.

JR: Really?

TM: And I started out as mechanic, I put it on that thing. Then I was a service manager and then store manager and then salesman there the last four years.

JR: Was it a pretty good size place? Was it the only tractor supply around?

TM: Well, it was a Caterpillar.

JR: Oh, heavy equipment.

TM: Yeah, heavy equipment dealership.

JR: Really.

TM: And when I went there, I think I was the seventh mechanic that worked there.

JR: And those were skills you learned in the Army?

TM: No, I went to auto diesel college down in Nashville, Tennessee. Then got out, went Army for three years.

JR: I see.

TM: And that's what I did in the Army. Worked in engineers. Working on equipment. Came back and then went to work for Carolina Tractor.

JR: I see.

TM: And then I worked there for 37 years and finally retired and been just hanging out since.

TE: Hanging out is nice, isn't it?

JR: How long ago did you retire?

TM: '96. It's been about 23 years.

JR: Oh yeah. Yeah. Nice. Yeah. I don't recall that tractor place at all.

LM: Where Davis Home Furniture is now.

JR: Oh, okay.

TE: What store?

LM: Davis Home Furniture. They advertise all the time.

TE: I see that advertisement.

LM: Recliners and all that. They moved in there. That's where its located.

TM: No, it's the one there right below it, next lot.

LM: In that area.

JR: They built their own building that big concrete block building or whatever.

TM: Who did?

JR: The tractor people.

TM: Yeah, Carolina Tractor. Yeah. Yeah. They was originally up on Tunnel Road and it burnt down, I think in '57 they built that one in Biltmore down there.

JR: That was a gas station along there, wasn't there? Pullium had a gas station.

TM: Well, it's North State Supplies was right across from Carolina Tractor. It's the last thing right before... Oh you're talking about the oil place? It's right past Carolina Tractor. It's the first thing on Fairview Road then Caroline Tractor and then Dave's, whatever it is.

JR: Gotcha.

TM: And then in 19.. What? '92? We moved out...

LM: '91.

TM: '91. Then Carolina Tractor moved out on Pond Road right across from a farmer's market. down the road there. And there's the Ford place and the Nissan and all that stuff.

JR: Still there?

TM: Oh yeah. They probably have a hundred employees down there now.

JR: My goodness. How many do they have when you worked there?

TM: Well like they were selling back in the service department and three or four in parts, maybe about 11, a couple salesmen, about 13.

JR: That's a good enough operation for one man to manage.

TM: Yeah.

TE: Do either of you recall any boarding houses in this kind of general area?

TM: There was a boarding house down on the end of Church Road, down there, a great big house there. And it is long gone now. I think it's about gone when we were young people.

TE: Any idea who owned it?

TM: No, but that's the only boarding house that I know is here.

TE: You know what the name of it was. Okay.

TM: No, not really.

TE: No problem. During the sixties, during the Vietnam War, there was, as you know, there was a lot of unrest really all over the country. What was it like in Fairview area during that time of the Vietnam War?

TM: Well, we built a house here in '66. I guess it's not really good to say. I was so involved in making a living that I didn't pay a whole lot of attention to the Vietnam War.

TE: I understand.

TM: I mean we saw the pictures on television, all the things going and people writing. But we really didn't pay. I didn't pay it much attention because I was trying to make a living to...get started

LM: Worked long hours.

TE: Quite understandable.

LM: A lot of overtime. So, I didn't have to work. But I was raising children and I wasn't paying a whole lot of attention.

TE: You were working.

LM: I was working, yes, I was.

JR: And you had the cows also?

TM: What's that?

JR: Were you also keeping the cows?

TM: Yeah, we got the cows. What about '70?

LM: Well, we didn't have them in the sixties or '70 something.

TM: Yeah, it was about '70 when I started back in...

LM: Early seventies maybe.

TM: With the cows and stuff.

JR: It's a beautiful place. That pasture is just gorgeous. If I were an artist I'd paint it.

TE: And is that red barn yours?

TM: Yes.

TE: I fell in love with that red barn and I saw that. I said I don't know if that's his or not, but I said I love that barn.

TM: Ours run all the way down to Miller Road down there.

TE: Okay. Okay. Is there any topic, any area, any thought that either of you have that we've not mentioned that you'd like to share with us? Any general thought or anything that pops into your mind?

TM: I guess the only thing really is we've had a good life.

TE: Good.

TM: Fairview's been good to us. The Lord's been good to us for all these years. We've been married 61 years now and he's been good to us. Good place to live. She thought I brought her to the...

LM: To the boonies.

TE: And she loves the boonies now.

TM: It wasn't like it is now, course with all the people in it. But when I was a kid, you couldn't see a light anywhere.

TE: Yeah.

TM: The only house was over here. Granddad's and the one behind us here, you couldn't see a light anywhere. Now it looks like starlight outside.

JR: We can't find any place to watch celestial events.

TM: No. Although I don't...

JR: Can't see meteor showers and things.

TM: Outside light. Because I do like it dark outside. So, you can go outside and see the stars and the moon. So, I don't put a lot outside light out here. But Fairview's been good to us. Been good to our family. Been here a long time.

TE: Well, thank you for sharing that. It sounds as though you all have... You met, you fell in love, and it's just been true and blue. And I think when we work hard and give our best that it finds a way back to us.

TM: Oh yeah. Yeah.

TE: Judith, do you have any questions?

JR: Nope. I just thoroughly enjoyed talking to you. It was a real honor.

TE: Yes. Thank you so much for sharing with us today.

TM: I don't know what we told you about Fairview...

END OF INTERVIEW.